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WELL DEVELOPMENTS

No. XI Board of Water Well Contractors January 1991

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BOND FORFEITURE

In March of 1989, a complaint was filed against Barry Main, License No. 496, regarding the drilling of a well on July 22, 1988. The family using the well became ill and had the water tested in November of 1988. Test results confirmed that the well was contaminated and the licensee disinfected the well. It was retested and showed no contamination. But the family became ill again early in 1989, and tests again confirmed that the well was contaminated. The licensee refused to disinfect again. A field investigation revealed the well had not been sealed to prevent surface water from contaminating the well. The well was also completed with used casing. The area around the well was cavitated, with a leaf-filled ditch in close proximity that could drain surface water from the barn and pasture into the cavitation around the well. The well log showed 18 feet of grout with chips.

Barry Main was called before the Board of Water Well Contractors in June of 1989 and ordered to provide the well owner with a properly constructed well and, if necessary, plug the old well. When Mr. Main did not renew his license in 1989, his bonding company was notified. Bids for a new well and abandonment of the old well were obtained. The bonding company agreed to pay for the new well and for proper abandonment of the old well, which was completed in October of 1990. A hearing was not requested.

GROUTING REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER WELLS

A discussion at a recent meeting of the Board of Water Well Contractors meeting focused on an apparent misunderstanding regarding the grouting rules. Even though ARM 36.21.654 requires a minimum of 18 feet of grout on all water wells, the rules for specific formations may require you to use more. When you are drilling in a specific formation, such as a consolidated formation, you need to refer to the rule on consolidated formations (ARM 36.21.655). The requirements of this rule are such that you may need to use more than the minimum 18 feet of grout to comply. Some time ago, the Board office mailed copies of the book containing the law and rules to each of you. In February, you will be mailed copies of some proposed changes to the rules, so it would be a good time to review the law and rules. If you have questions on the rules as written, or on the proposed changes, call the Board office in Helena at (406) 444-6643.

MONTANA WATER WELL DRILLERS ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Montana Water Well Drillers Convention program, scheduled for February 6-8, at the Holiday Inn West, Billings, has been approved for required training credit. Topics and speakers include:

1. Grouting - Bob Stichman, Wyo-Ben, Inc., Billings

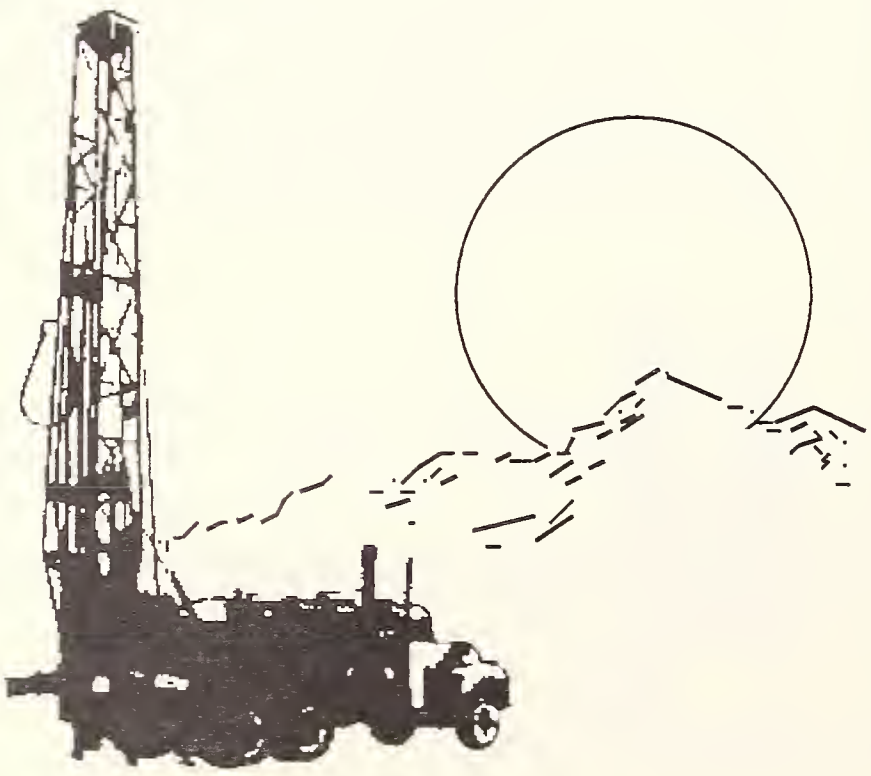
2. Computers - Carla Hoops, Computers Unlimited, Billings

3. Monitor Drilling - Fred Buller, Canterra Int., Calgary, Alberta, Canada

4. DOT Regulations - Ben Jazz, State of Montana

5. Worker's Comp Safety - Jim Cavanaugh, State Compensation Mutual Insurance Fund

6. CPR Course - Chris Martin, St. Vincent Hospital and Health Center, Billings
   More specific information on the dates and times of the presentations can be obtained from Vicki Lautt, the Executive Secretary, at (406) 665-2889.



MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE PROFILE

The Miles City Field Office is part of the Water Resources Division in the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). The office's jurisdiction covers Carter, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, and Wibaux counties.

Walter L. Rolf, Field Manager, has been with DNRC since 1976. He came into the department as an adjudication engineer for the Powder River Water Rights Adjudication Program in Broadus. He later became project manager for that program.

Since 1980, Walter has been the Field Manager of the Miles City Office and deals mainly with permit applications, objections, field investigations, dam safety investigations, adjudication problems, and the administrative duties of the Miles City office. Walter also manages his ranching operation near Miles City. He received his degree in Agricultural Engineering from Montana State University.

Beth Wiedeman, water resource specialist III, has been with DNRC since 1978. Beth started with the department as a Clerk/Analyst, then became an adjudication specialist. Beth now supervises the new appropriation program, reviews new appropriation applications, does field investigations for water use, performs some investigations for the Board of Water Well Contractor activities, and assists in dam safety investigations.

Liz Preller, administrative clerk, has recently become a full-time member of the Miles City water resources staff. Liz has worked since 1983 as a receptionist, and provided general clerical duties for the Water Rights Bureau and the Conservation District Division. She also searches for well locations and depths for drillers and USDA Soil Conservation Service engineers. She is currently learning to process transfers and small groundwater applications.

GROUTING, WELL DESIGN, AND INSTALLATION SCHOOL

On April 5, 1991, Wyo-Ben, Inc. and Johnson Filtration Systems, Inc. will be conducting a Grouting, Well Design, and Installation School in Billings, Montana. A classroom session on the design and construction of the well and the grouting materials and method to be used will be held in the morning at the Quality Inn, 2036 Overland Avenue. Monitoring well techniques will also be covered.

In the afternoon, a water well will be constructed and a screen installed. Curt Schelle with American Drilling will donate his time and rig for the well construction, which will take place near his shop at 1520 East Lane in Billings. The shop is close to the Quality Inn.

A registration fee of $15 will be charged, which includes lunch. Registration will be limited to 50 participants and pre-registration is required before March 22, 1991. A form is included in this newsletter for your use.

The school will fulfill the required four hours of training needed for license renewal. For further information, you can contact either the Board office in Helena, Bob Stichman with Wyo-Ben in Billings at 1 800 548-7055, or Brian Shugrue with Johnsons Filtration Systems, Inc. in Everett, Washington at (206) 258-1618.

TRAINING COURSES

Some of you have called for information on what kind of seminar may be accepted for training. The MWWDA Convention in February and the Grouting, Well Design, and Installation School in April have been approved for credit. In addition, if you attend a pump school, a grouting school, the eight-hour safety refresher course, or other training related to water well or monitoring well drilling, it will probably be accepted. If you plan to attend a seminar that you think might qualify, please submit a copy of the program outline to the Board office in Helena before attending. You will be advised as to whether the seminar will be accepted and how many hours of credit will be granted for attendance. You can also obtain approval after attendance by submitting a course outline and verification from the course instructor that you attended. You do take a chance that the training may not be accepted, so obtaining prior approval is recommended. If you have questions about a particular class, you can call the Board office in Helena.

You might wish to contact the DNRC Water Resources Field Office in your area to see whether they are planning any seminars on water rights issues, filing of well log reports, etc. These would also be accepted for credit.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Street

_____

City State Zip

Phone: ( )_____

area code

Send $15.00 registration fee and this form to

Bob Stichman
Wyo-Ben, Inc.
P.O. Box 1979
Billings, MT 59103

For further information
on any of the material
contained herein contact:
Diana C. Cutler, Program Specialist
Board of Water Well Contractors
1520 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-6643

DNRC

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